# STATEMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH ARON LINDBLOM OF DIAKONIA GUATEMALA

Guatemala, 26th of April 2018

Sen. Roger F. Wicker, Chairman Sen. Ben Cardin, Ranking Member Rep. Chris Smith, Co-Chairman

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Ranking Member

U.S. Helsinki Commission

Dear Sirs, please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Attached is a letter in Spanish from Guatemalan women's organization Asociación Grupo Integral de Mujeres Sanjuaneras (AGIMS), expressing their full support for the results and continued efforts of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the current Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez.

AGIMS are writing this letter in response to the recent controversy surrounding the Russian Bitkov family in Guatemala and kindly ask that their opinion will be taken into account by the Helsinki Commission and the respectable elected representatives of the American people in the upcoming hearing "The Long Arm Of Injustice: Did A UN Commission Founded To Fight Corruption Help The Kremlin Destroy A Russian Family?", to be held on Friday the 27th of April 2018.

Attachment: 180425 AGIMS support CICIG and Iván Velásquez Gómez (letter in pdf format).

Best regards,

Sonia Selena Suruy Borrayo (AGIMS). Ana Esperanza Tubac Culajay (AGIMS).

## **Aron Lindblom**

Diakonia Guatemala Asesor Regional / Regional Advisor

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Sen. Roger F. Wicker, Chairman Sen. Ben Cardin, Ranking Member Rep. Chris Smith, Co-Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings, Ranking Member U.S. Helsinki Commission

Dear Sirs, please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Attached is a letter in Spanish from the indigenous ancestral authorities of the Maya, Xinka, and Garifuna peoples of Guatemala expressing their full support for the results and continued efforts of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the current Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez.

The indigenous ancestral authorities are writing this letter in response to the recent controversy surrounding the Russian Bitkov family in Guatemala and kindly ask that their opinion will be taken into account by the Helsinki Commission and the respectable elected representatives of the American people in the upcoming hearing "The Long Arm Of Injustice: Did A UN Commission Founded To Fight Corruption Help The Kremlin Destroy A Russian Family?", to be held on Friday the 27th of April 2018.

Attachment: 180426 Indigenous ancestral authorities of Guatemala support CICIG and Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez (letter in pdf format).

Best regards,

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Dear Sirs, please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Attached is a letter in Spanish from Guatemalan churches and Christian organisations joined together in the Christian Council of Guatemala – *Concejo Ecuménico Cristiano de Guatemala* – expressing their full support for the results and continued efforts of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the current Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez.

The Christian Council is writing this letter in response to the recent controversy surrounding the Russian Bitkov family in Guatemala and kindly ask that their opinion will be taken into account by the Helsinki Commission and the respectable elected representatives of the American people in their investigations of the Bitkov case.

Attachment: 180426 Christian Council of Guatemala supports CICIG and Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez (letter in pdf format).

Best regards,

Rev. Dr. Héctor Castañeda (Consejo Ecuménico Cristiano de Guatemala). Mayra Rodríguez (Consejo Ecuménico Cristiano de Guatemala).

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Dear Sirs, please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Attached is a letter in Spanish from Guatemalan women's organization Asociación Nuevo Horizonte (ANH), expressing their full support for the results and continued efforts of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the current Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez.

ANH are writing this letter in response to the recent controversy surrounding the Russian Bitkov family in Guatemala and kindly ask that their opinion will be taken into account by the Helsinki Commission and the respectable elected representatives of the American people in their investigation into the Bitkov case.

Attachment: 180426 ANH support CICIG and Iván Velásquez Gómez (letter in pdf format).

Best regards,

María Gualim (ANH).

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Dear Sirs, please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Attached is a letter in Spanish from Guatemalan peasant movement Comité de Unidad Campesina (Committee of Peasant Unity, CUC) expressing their full support for the results and continued efforts of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the current Commissioner Iván Velásquez Gómez.

CUC are writing this letter in response to the recent controversy surrounding the Russian Bitkov family in Guatemala and kindly ask that their opinion will be taken into account by the Helsinki Commission and the respectable elected representatives of the American people in their investigation into the Bitkov case.

Attachments: Two letters, one in Spanish and one in English, from CUC Guatemala to the American Helsinki Commission.

Best regards,

Daniel Pascual Hernández (CUC).

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